DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—JOHNSON.

VOL. II. SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1850. NO. 8.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

LIST OF APPLES.

We are often requested to give a choice list of apples and other fruits; but a great difficulty attends the subject, as different varieties are suited to different climates, and to different purposes. The Baldwin is the most popular winter apple in this section, but it has less value in the northern part of New England, while the Ribstone Pippin, which is not worth cultivating here, succeeds well in Maine, and perhaps it may be valuable in other northern regions. Some fruits are fine for the garden, being of the best quality; but they may be of small size, and the tree a poor grower or bearer, so that they would not be profitable for the market. Yet there are some fruits that are generally good in different sections, and for various purposes.

SUMMER APPLES.

Red Astrachan, Williams, Sweet Bough, Cole's Quince, Foundling, Summer Rose, Manomet Sweeting, Benoni, Golden Sweet.

The Early Harvest is about a week earlier than any of the above, but it is very uncertain in New England, being liable to crack and blast; yet it may be worthy the attention of amateurs.

The Summer Rose is a beautiful and excellent apple for the garden, but rather small for the market. Williams requires a strong, rich soil, and with high culture it is very large, beautiful, and salable. It is a moderate bearer. Cole's Quince succeeds well in Maine, its native state, and we have disseminated it widely for experiment. It is a good grower, a constant and good bearer, of a large size, of superior quality for cooking, and when thoroughly ripe and mellow, very fine for the table. Sweet Bough flourishes well in all parts of the country, and is excellent. Manomet Sweeting is new and very promising, and is later than Sweet Bough.

FALL APPLES.

Benoni and Manomet extend into autumn. Golden Sweet, a very fine apple, comes into use the latter part of August, and continues nearly through September. The following are valuable:—

Richardson, Bars, Early Joe, Mexico, Garden Royal, Long Stem, Superb Sweet, Porter, Sassafras Sweeting, Gravenstein, Magnolia, Jewett's Red, Hubbardston Nonsuch, Mother, Hurlburt.

Richardson is a large and excellent fruit, moderate grower, not yet well tested. Bars has not been extensively tested, but it is a good grower, and the fruit is beautiful and fine. Early Joe is a beautiful and first-rate dessert fruit, but should be eaten as they come from the tree. Mexico is handsome and excellent, but a very slow grower indeed. Garden Royal is among the very finest dessert apples, well adapted to the garden, but rather small for market. Long Stem is a good grower, fair fruit, and of a very high character; new and promising. Superb Sweet is a fine grower, good bearer, the fruit handsome, tender, and rich; not extensively cultivated, but very promising. Porter and Gravenstein have their characters well established as highly valuable fruits, both for the dessert and kitchen. They are adapted to different climates and locations. Sassafras is one of the finest autumnal sweet apples. Magnolia is a new and very promising fruit, not yet well tested. Jewett's Red is an excellent apple for the dessert, but it requires very high culture, else the fruit will be imperfect. Hubbardston Nonsuch is one of the very best late fall apples for the market. It is large and fair, and very popular. Mother is also a late fall apple of the very highest character, and promising as to its habits, but not yet well tested. Hurlburt is one of the very best apples, late in fall and early in winter. It is a good bearer, and the best and largest grower that we have among a variety of sixty or seventy in the nursery. It grows more rapidly than the Baldwin, which is famous for this quality.

WINTER AND SPRING APPLES.

Mother and Hurlburt are early winter apples. The following are considered very valuable varieties: Rhode Island Greening, Danvers Winter Sweet, Baldwin, Sutton Beauty, American Golden Russet, Ribston Pippin, Seaver Sweet, Red Russet, Roxbury Russet, Ladies, Sweeting, Northern Spy, Table Greening.

Some cultivators consider the Rhode Island Greening one of the best of apples, but many complain that it does not yield so much fair fruit as the Baldwin. As it has been somewhat neglected, the fruit

has of late sold higher than the Baldwin, early in winter. Danvers Winter Sweet is very popular, and yet a great many who cultivate it complain that much of the fruit is too small for market. We prefer the Seaver Sweet, as the fruit is larger, equally as good, a better grower, and bears more in odd years, when apples are usually scarce.

The Baldwin is the most popular apple in New England; but in the northern parts, some prefer the Ribston Pippin, and others adapted to a cold climate. Sutton Beauty is a new and very promising fruit, well worthy of experiment. See our first volume, page 146. But little known. When we prepared the American Fruit-Book, we had not fairly tested this fruit; since that time we have tried it, and given it a place in a new edition now in press. American Golden Russet is one of the very best of apples, and it retains its excellence into spring, but it is rather small for market.

Red Russet is new, but very promising, and worthy of general trial. It keeps as well as the Roxbury Russet, is a better grower, and the fruit is better. Roxbury Russet is valued for its late keeping; but it requires very moist, strong, rich land. It is uncertain, especially on old land, and dry or moderate soils. The fruit is dry, and not first rate either for the table or the dessert. Ladies Sweeting is rather large fruit, very beautiful, and of the highest character. It retains its excellence even till summer. A moderate grower. Not yet well tested in New England. Northern Spy has become famous for its beauty and excellent flavor, and particularly for its freshness after long keeping, even sometimes into summer. Some say that in its native region, Western New York, it requires high culture and close pruning, else the fruit will be small and imperfect as the trees grow old. We think this variety will cost about twice as much to raise it as the R. I. Greening or Baldwin, and owing to their later keeping and superior quality, that they will be worth twice as much. Table Greening is a new variety, which we have disseminated widely for experiment. It has not yet borne, excepting in its native region, in Maine. It is excellent for cooking, and a very good dessert apple, excepting the flesh is rather firm. It has not the fine aroma of the Northern Spy, but it keeps much better.

Further experiments are necessary, to show what are the best apples for spring and summer. A good cooking apple for this season will rank high, as it will save us from the disagreeable necessity of using dried apples, which we should hardly do, were it not for the reputation of apples established by their use in the green state.

LIST OF CHOICE PEARS.

Hundreds of varieties of pears have been tried and rejected, and a large number have generally succeeded very well under good management. The following are among the most valuable, or the kinds that generally succeed well with good treatment. The list is arranged nearly in the order of ripening.

SUMMER PEARS.

Madeleine, Bloodgood, Dorr, Rostiezer, Tyson, Dearborn's Seedling.

Madeleine is our best early pear. Bloodgood is rather uncertain in New England, yet generally good. Dorr is not of high quality, but remarkable for growth, hardiness, and production. Rostiezer is a very great grower, and the fruit is first rate, but small for the market. Tyson is a little larger than the last, but not quite so good. Dearborn's Seedling is a fine, hardy variety, but as it is small, it is not profitable for the market, as the Bartlett comes into the market nearly at the same time. There are several other promising native summer pears on trial, among which are the Wadleigh, Muskingum, Osband's Summer, Zoar Seedling, &c.

FALL PEARS.

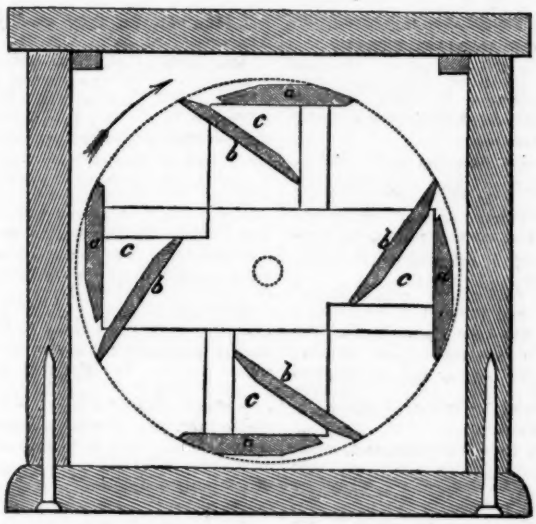
Bartlett, Wilbur, St. Ghistlain, Stevens's Genesee, Belle Lucrative, Cushing, Flemish Beauty, Andrews, Beurre Bosc, Seckel, Louise Bon de Jersey, Buffum, Fulton, Swan's Orange, Urbaniste, Dix, Vicar of Winkfield.

Bartlett is the most popular fall pear here, but it is rather tender for a northern climate. Wilbur is a native, and very promising. St. Ghistlain is excellent for the amateur, but too small for market. Cushing does not rank so high in quality as others with which we have associated it, but it is a hardy native, and a great bearer. Beurre Bosc is of an excellent quality, but as it is a slow grower and moderate bearer, it is not profitable for the market. Seckel is small, but it is the standard of excellence. Louise Bon de Jersey is very productive on the quince stock, but it has not been well tested, in orchard culture, on the pear stock. Buffum and Fulton are natives, and among our very best pears for the orchard; they are very productive and salable. Swan's Orange is a new native, and promises to be one of the very best for orchard culture. Urbaniste is one of the finest and surest of foreign pears. Dix is a native, but like some foreign kinds, very liable to crack and blast. Best for the amateur who has an extensive list, Vicar of Winkfield is a great grower, and a great and sure bearer. Fine for cooking, and very good for the table, when grown in a warm location, and well ripened.

WINTER PEARS.

Winter Nelis, M'Laughlin, Lewis, Beurre do Aremberg, Lawrence, Echassery, Easter Beurre, Pound for cooking.

Winter Nelis is a sweet, rich, luscious fruit, and generally succeeds well, but like nearly all foreign pears, it is a little uncertain. M'Laughlin is a hardy native of Maine, very promising, but not well tested. Lewis is a native, and succeeds well in a strong, rich soil, and rather warm location. Beurre de Aremberg is a very fine fruit, but rather uncertain. Lawrence is a native of New York, and is rather promising in New England; not yet well tested. Echassery is an old variety, not hardly first rate, but very hardy and sure in orchard culture. Easter Beurre is a difficult fruit to grow and ripen. When perfect, it is of a high character, and keeps late. It is adapted to a warm location in the garden.



CENTRIFUGAL AND CENTRIPETAL CHURN.

This engraving represents an improvement in the churn dasher, recently patented by Mr. Z. C. Robbins, St. Louis, for which a medal was awarded by the American Institute at their fair last autumn. This dasher has a rotary motion, by a crank on a horizontal shaft. The cut represents a transverse section, or end view of the dasher. From the inventor's specification, we gather the following account of this machine.

The dasher has several beating blades, *a*, *a*, *b*, *b*, &c., confined at each end to arms *c*, *c*, &c., which form the ends of the dasher. When the dasher is in motion, the cream is gathered between the diverging surfaces of each pair of blades, giving it an outward or centrifugal direction, and by the joint action of pressure and suction, it is forced through the narrow space between their after edges, producing a most efficient action on the cream for the production of butter.

When the butter begins to separate from the cream, the motion is reversed, and the rear surfaces of the blades, *b*, *b*, &c., will give the butter a centripetal direction, and gather the butter, as fast as it is formed, into a roll in the centre of the dasher; thereby preventing the clogging and obstruction to the free movement of the dasher by the accumulation of butter upon it; so that the churning operation may be easily pursued, until all the butter is separated from the cream, and gathered into a roll. This dasher may be used to advantage in either a round or square churn.

"The peculiar position of the dasher blades, causing them to pass edgewise through the cream, prevents their putting the whole mass of it into a rotary motion; in consequence of which absence of rotary motion in the body of the cream, the efficiency of the churning action of the dasher blades is greatly increased, and the dasher can be operated with equal advantage in either a round or a square vessel. This form of churn dasher, it is believed, has the largest amount of effective agitating surface that can possibly be given to it, consistently with the preservation of such a degree of simplicity of form and arrangement of parts as will allow of free access to all the surfaces thereof that are brought in contact with cream, for the purpose of cleansing them; without which last qualification, no churn will receive favor with dairy-women.

"The centrifugal and centripetal churn dasher is equally well adapted to the churning of milk as it is to the churning of cream. After repeated experiments, it is believed by the inventor, that it will produce butter from cream or milk in less time, and with a less expenditure of power than it can be accomplished by the use of any other churn that has ever been patented or brought into use.

"And also, that a larger quantity of butter will be produced from a given quantity of cream or milk."

We copy the following from that very valuable work, the Farmer and Mechanic, New York: —

"This invention, to which we alluded in the Farmer and Mechanic of November 1, appears to us to be based on purely scientific principles, and from the extensive sale, and numerous testimonials in their favor, their practical utility has not been over-estimated. Hundreds are in use in our own state, in some of the best dairies, and all who have used them speak of them in terms of enthusiastic approbation. We are informed that many are also in operation in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, where they are equally admired, saving, it is said, by their application, nearly fifty per cent., in time and labor, over the common upright reciprocating dasher. Any contribution to the great dairy interest of the country is worthy of high commendation, and this we deem a valuable improvement, and worthy of general adoption by the farming community."

These churns are manufactured and sold by Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason, & Co., at Worcester and Boston.

For the New England Farmer.

CULTIVATION OF INDIAN CORN.

Mr. Cole: A field of stout corn, with lusty ears standing out in every direction, has always been a pleasing sight to me; and it has been rather a matter of pride with me, to grow about as good corn as any body. I now propose to give you an account of my management of two fields of this grain; and should your patience tire with the particularity of my details, I must remark that I am often obliged to lay aside that which I read upon farming, as of no practical use to me, because of the absence of details important for me to know.

I shall first mention a field of ten acres, that had lain to grass four years, and the soil of which is a warm, sandy loam. It was nicely ploughed to the depth of nine inches, in November. The manure was drawn on to the land in the fall, winter, and early spring, and placed in large heaps to prevent evaporation, and at convenient distances for again loading it into carts for spreading. One heap of forty loads was of muck from the barn-yard, upon which the cows had been yarded nights through the summer; other heaps were of muck, turf, and scrapings of various sorts, thrown to the hogs, and by them worked over; others were a compost of two parts muck to one of horse or cattle manure; and the last was sixty loads of muck, composted with six hogsheads of fresh lime, of seven bushels each, mixed in August before planting.

In May, these heaps were deposited over the field in smaller heaps, for the purpose of spreading, and at the rate of thirty loads per acre. The loads would average about thirty-five bushels each. The compost was evenly spread on the inverted furrows, and at the same time a heavy hinge-harrow was started lengthwise of the furrows, going several times in a place, and then across the furrows, until the soil and manure were perfectly pulverized and mingled to the depth of three or four inches. I harrow planting ground as much again as farmers in general do, and find my account in it too; for the extra fine tilth thus obtained, makes much easier and better work of planting and the first hoeing, besides contributing to the rapid growth of the young corn.

The field was next marked out in rows, north and south, and east and west, at three and a half feet apart each way. Much care was used to keep straight rows both ways, in order that the horse and cultivator might afterwards work the crop with the best execution. If rows are straight, one can shave the weeds, and stir the ground close up to the hills with the cultivator, leaving little for the hand-hoe to do. Besides, I perfectly abhor the sight of crooked corn-rows. Three and a half feet is pretty wide planting; but my corn is a large sort, and it will cover the ground at that distance apart, giving larger ears, as well as standing a drought longer than if planted nearer. I am suspicious of the reasoning by which the conclusion is arrived at, that close planting obviates the effects of drought; for each stalk, in seeking to perfect itself, draws on the soil for its due amount of moisture, and the demand is in this respect greater than that by evaporation.

In planting the corn, six to eight kernels were well scattered in each hill. I find that corn ears heavier, if well spread in the hill, than if thrown down into a heap, one kernel on the top of another. As the soil was a light sandy loam, the seed was covered about three inches deep. I have had my corn fail to come up well for want of sufficient covering. If a dry spell succeeds planting, the corn will find more moisture to set it growing if well covered; and again, if a frost succeeds, which is not unusual with me, the little tender plants will not be injured permanently, if the planting has been deep; but if it has been shallow, their vitality is destroyed. The seed was planted dry, with the belief, after a trial of various steeps, that it is as well so as any way.

As soon as the corn was up sufficiently to follow the rows well, the field was worked with a horse and cultivator, twice in a row, both ways, and the hills were dressed with the hoe. A week or so after, the horse and cultivator were again used, both ways; and so again, in another week; and again, for the last time, the earth, this time, being slightly raised with the hoe, making the hills broad and flat. The stalks were also thinned to four or five in a hill. Nothing more was done till harvest, and nothing more needed to be done. The ploughing had been nicely executed the fall previous; in the spring the surface was clean of grass or weeds, and brought to fine tilth with the harrow; the manure was sufficiently fermented to destroy the seeds of weeds contained therein; the frequent use of the cultivator kept the surface clean, and so mellow that the young corn came rapidly forward; and soon after the second hoeing, the ground was completely covered with the crop, and all weeds were choked down.

My cornfield was a handsome sight, on account of its perfect uniformity of luxuriance. It yielded me seventy two-bushel baskets full of ears to the acre. Premiums are frequently taken for single acres, yielding double the corn that any one acre of mine did; but whenever I can grow *ten* acres of corn, *averaging* seventy two-bushel baskets of ears per acre, I say to myself, *that* is doing very well.

Last year I planted a field of two acres to corn, in drills. The preparation of the ground did not differ materially from that of the ten acre field just described. From some experiments in drill planting tried on a small scale, in previous years, I was induced to think that on good land, well manured, corn would yield rather more in drills than in hills. This lot being one where these conditions were all right, I marked it out in rows three and a half feet apart, and dropped the seed in the rows nine inches apart, which gave just the same number of stalks to the acre as if I had planted in hills three and a half feet apart each way, four kernels in a hill. The seed was dropped by hand, and covered with the hoe; and it took about twice as long as it would to have planted in hills three and a half feet apart. The corn was worked with a horse and cultivator at six several times, in quick succession, and dressed twice with the hoe. As the rows were very straight, the cultivator was worked up close to the stalks each time, and the hoeing was not much, if any, more laborious than usual.

As I was absent from home during the whole of harvest time, no measures were taken to ascertain the exact yield of this field. But myself and others were well persuaded, upon comparison of the corn growing in drills with that in hills, on equally good ground, that the yield of the former would exceed that of the latter by at least fifteen bushels per acre. The stalks standing singly, nine inches apart, had each a better chance at air, moisture, and pasture; the ears in consequence grew larger, and more of the stalks bore two ears, than would have been the case if planted in hills. On the whole, I was well pleased with this crop, and intend, this coming season, to plant five acres in drills.

While upon my present subject, I will say a word about saving seed corn. All experienced farmers are aware that the productiveness and early ripening of any kind of corn, depends very much upon the manner of selecting the seed. I have a long-eared variety, which I have been planting and improving for some ten or twelve years; and although during that time I have tried, I presume, a dozen other sorts, I give the preference to the first-named sort. What-

ever may be said in favor of a change of seed, as regards other crops, there is no need of changing seed corn, *provided* proper care is used in the yearly selection of that for planting. By proper attention to this matter, a variety may be perfectly adapted in its habits to a given climate and soil, and changed much for the better as to productiveness. The difference in product, between careful selection in the field, and taking seed at random from the crib, will, in a very few years, be much in favor of the former mode, — the soil and cultivation being in both cases alike.

As soon as the earliest ears are thoroughly glazed, I go over the field myself, selecting from those stalks that are "stocky" and vigorous, and that produce two good ears. The selected ears are taken immediately home, braided, and hung up in a dry, airy place. When I commenced with my favorite variety, it was difficult to find twin ears; but now they are abundant. My crops also ripen ten days earlier than at first. I will not mention the length of the ears that might be found in my fields, but will say to you, Mr. Editor, come and see for yourself.

F. HOLBROOK.

BRATTLEBORO', VT., *March* 26, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

CORN FODDER.

MR. COLE: In your number for December 8, you published a communication headed "Corn for Fodder." In your remarks I entirely coincide, except in one statement, viz.: "But thirty tons of green stalks will not make twelve tons of dry fodder; probably not more than six tons." Wishing to have some exact data from which to judge of the profitableness of this crop, I tried some experiments last year, for that purpose, and wrote down the results at the time. The field where I tried the experiments, was planted the 5th of June, in drills nearly three feet apart. On the middle of September, I cut a bundle which weighed thirty-four pounds. The stalks were green, with a few small ears fit for boiling. I spread this bundle in as exposed a situation for drying as I could find, and after three days of good weather it weighed nineteen and one half pounds. In seven days it weighed seventeen and one half pounds, and after a fortnight, *fifteen and one half* pounds. I put it under cover every night and every dull day.

I also cut a bundle of green "tops" in the cornfield, which weighed thirty-one pounds; one day after, it weighed twenty-two and one half pounds. After a week of sunny warm weather, it weighed fifteen pounds. This result, showing a shrinkage of about eleven twentieths, was not quite as much as I expected. We had *guessed* the loss in drying would be from two thirds to three quarters of its weight.

It would be interesting to me to hear of other experiments on this matter, and also the grounds upon which you estimated the loss in drying to be four fifths of the weight; as *one* experiment is not entirely conclusive.

I should be glad to learn what mode of curing corn fodder in large quantities you would recommend, and what modes are practised in the vicinity of Boston.

I was about to write a list of other inquiries, but I will not extend this communication.

Yours respectfully, J. H. A.

HILLSBOROUGH CO., N. H., *Jan.* 19, 1850.

REMARKS. — By some mistake this article has been delayed. Our statement that "thirty tons of green fodder will not make twelve tons of dry," is founded partly on experiments in weighing, and partly on judgment; but we say "*probably* not more than six tons." This latter remark is guess work, as appears from our qualification; yet we have some facts, on which this fact is founded.

We do not dispute the results of experiments as communicated, but we think experiments will not generally give such results. Our opinion is founded on the loss of weight in top stalks, as we have handled them much more than corn cut up at the ground; and a bundle that is quite heavy green, weighs only a few pounds when dry. A farmer who raised large quantities of corn fodder, said that it required good land, highly manured, and well managed, to produce six tons of dry fodder. Now, on such land we should expect twenty or thirty tons of green fodder. Mr. Willard Earle, of Worcester, raised forty tons of green fodder to the acre. Is it possible to get twenty tons of dry fodder to the acre?

We are much obliged to our correspondent for calling attention to the subject, and we shall be happy to learn that we are mistaken, and that the crop of dry corn fodder is far larger than we considered it, forming our opinion by inferences from facts, instead of direct facts. We regard this subject as unsettled, and request farmers to make experiments, both on top stalks, and on corn fodder, and report to us the result.

As to curing corn fodder, it is best to sow it sufficiently early for it to be fit to cut while the weather is warm, and the ground warm and dry. After cutting it, expose it considerably to the sun, carefully securing it against storms and heavy dews.

For the New England Farmer.

NATIVE ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS.

MR. COLE: There are many species of shrubs found in our woods and hedges, far more beautiful than a large portion of the exotic kinds which are carefully and extensively cultivated for ornamental purposes. Indigenous shrubs have been employed to a limited extent, as yet, for embellishment; but their merits are more appreciated as they become better understood. Some of the most splendid kinds have been transferred from the forest to the garden, and are much prized and sought for.

The Rhododendron maximum, or Rose bay, as it is sometimes called, is a magnificent flowering shrub. It is somewhat rare in this section.

The Kalmia, or Laurel, of which there are three species in this vicinity, all of which are beautiful, but rather difficult to cultivate, is an evergreen, and adds much to the landscape in winter, by its green leaves, which are always cheering to the sight at that dreary season.

The Azaleas, of which we have two species in this section, are most splendid; one bearing pink flowers, and the other white, and both having a very fragrant odor, resembling that of the garden pink. No collection of shrubbery should be without them.

The Rhodora Canadensis, or false Honeysuckle, is a beautiful early flowering shrub, common in wet grounds, and worthy of a place in every collection.

The common Sweet Brier, or native rose, is much improved by cultivation, and perfumes the air with

its grateful odor; it is also one of the stocks on which to bud the foreign kinds with the greatest chance of success.

We have many species of Cornus and Viburnum with fine flowers, and more worthy of cultivation than much of the exotic shrubbery now seen in gardens and pleasure-grounds.

There are many other species which might be enumerated; but the above will suffice, as examples, to awaken an interest on the subject, and remind us, while we are eagerly collecting the productions of foreign lands, that our own fields and forests bloom with equal splendor, though forgotten or unknown.

O. V. HILLS.

LEOMINSTER, *March*, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.

MR. COLE: It is pleasing to see, year after year, the increasing interest taken in the cultivation of flowers; for it indicates the advancement of civilization and refinement, as well as a higher standard of morality in the community. But there is yet a large class so wanting in good taste, that they consider the cultivation of flowers as a very useless employment. To this class I would say, that happiness is the aim and object of all the labor of man. The happiness of the least refined consists in sensual gratification. In proportion as mankind advance, they seek for more extended and more intellectual sources of happiness. One of these is the cultivation of flowers. Any one who has cared for, watered, and trained some choice flowering plant until it has rewarded the cultivator with its perfection of form and brilliant bloom, will assent to this. It not only gives pleasure to the senses and intellect, but it teaches a moral to the heart.

"God might have bade the earth bring forth
Enough for great and small,
The oak-tree and the cedar-tree,
Without a flower at all."

But would the amount of our happiness have been as great, without these beautiful forms of nature?

Much more might be said on the refined character of floriculture as an amusement; but I have already occupied more space with this part of my subject than I intended.

Many who set about filling a border with choice flowering plants, and who wish to select those both easy of cultivation and beautiful, are at a loss which to select among the thousands offered by seedmen and florists. It is not my purpose, in this article, to offer a select list, but to make some remarks on a few of our native plants worthy of cultivation, and which Mr. Fowler, in two interesting articles on pp. 12 and 60, current volume of the N. E. Farmer, has omitted to mention.

Scarlet Columbine is a well-known May flower, growing on dry, rocky hills, and in gravelly soil, of elegant habit, and bearing delicate pendulous scarlet flowers. When removed from its wild locality to the richer soil of a garden, it grows with great luxuriance, and produces tenfold more flowers than in its wild state; but it should be transplanted into fresh soil every second or third year. The White English and Wild Columbines should be planted together for the contrast of color. When thus situated, beautiful hybrids can easily be obtained from the seeds of the English Columbine, partaking of the character of both species, and distinct from either.

The Cranesbill, (*Geranium maculatum*,) when cultivated, produces an abundance of purple flowers in May and June. The root is valuable for its medicinal properties.

The Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*) is another plant valuable in medicine, easily cultivated. The flowers appear in April; they are very pretty, but short lived.

Lilies.—*Lilium superbum*, *L. Canadense* and *L. Philadelphicum*. These are all fine. The *L. superbum* is the most magnificent of our wild herbaceous plants,—far more showy than the much-lauded new Japan lily, (*L. lancifolium*.) They do best when transplanted, early in spring, into deep, rich, and, if possible, moist soil. If not naturally moist, the ground should be covered with straw or litter through the heat of summer.

The Wild Lupine is found on dry sandy land, and well deserves a place in the garden. Its blue flowers appear in May, and are arranged in a long terminal spike.

Ground Laurel (*Epigæa repens*) is a beautiful wild flower, blooming very early in spring. It has been introduced into the gardens of Europe, but is not cultivated here. Probably it would not stand our hot dry summers in exposed situations, but it might do well in a garden where it could be partially shaded.

The Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) is worth cultivating for its poetic associations. It is a slender plant, with narrow leaves, and pretty bell-shaped flowers. Rare in this part of the state. M.

NORTH EASTON, *March* 21, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

PROPAGATION OF BOX

MR. EDITOR: In gardening, as in dress, and other subjects, individual taste will more or less prevail; accordingly the little evergreen dwarf box, has ever been to me a peculiar favorite; not as a hedge or border for my flower-beds, but standing promiscuously in single trees, and growing as much to nature as possible. Having but few trees in my garden, and wishing to increase my stock, and as my husband had relinquished the floral department to myself and daughter, I consulted such authority as I could find, as to the best method of propagating it. The uniform opinion was, that it would grow readily from slips. I accordingly made a number of efforts, but either through want of skill or perseverance, had the mortification of seeing them all wither and die. One autumn, in the month of September, while having some tender plants potted for the greenhouse, the earth got accidentally heaped up around one of my box-trees, so as to cover the trunk and lower part of the branches; and it remained so until the following spring. When the earth was removed to dress the borders, I discovered that the part of the branches that had been covered, had thrown out roots from one to two inches in length; it then occurred to me that I might probably accomplish my wish. I therefore took up the tree, and divided it into about thirty parts, laying the lower parts of the slips in water to keep the roots from drying, had a piece of ground prepared, and the slips set out, water poured around so as to settle the earth, and then pressed down close with the foot. I had the satisfaction of seeing every slip that had any root attached, live and thrive well without further trouble, more than to keep out the weeds. The foregoing seem, indeed, a small matter to make so many words upon; but if others can feel the satisfaction that I have done, in seeing the work of their hands prosper, it may not be wholly useless.

Respectfully,

MRS. N. DARLING.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., *March* 15, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

COCCUS, LINN.

Mr. Cole: The family Coccidæ, or scale insects, (to which the cochineal insect, coccus cacti, so highly prized as a material for dyeing, also belongs,) contain many species which live as parasites on various plants, and do them considerable injury. They are very singular insects, passing the greater part of their life on one and the same spot, rather resembling an excrescence than a living creature. They belong to the order *Hemiptera*, Linn., in which the bugs, plant-lice, and *Cicadæ* are included; although the main characteristic of the order corresponds only with the males, as they only are winged. The females are shaped like a scale or shield, convex above, flat or concave below; provided with six very delicate feet, which sometimes, chiefly when the female has grown old, merge into the substance of the body. Anteriorly, at about the third part of the length of the insect, is situated a short or long rostrum on the under side, which it inserts into the epidermis of plants, and sucks out their juices. After pairing, when the eggs begin to develop themselves, the female dies, and her body serves as a protection and shield to her posterity, by covering the eggs till the young are hatched, when they crawl away. While young, both sexes are alike; afterwards the winged specimens are developed from the male's larvæ, and acquire two wings, and usually two long tail-threads; they are thus very distinct from the female, which looks like a larva during her whole life. There is also a great dissimilarity in point of size, as the male in all the species is scarcely to be distinguished with the naked eye, while the female sometimes attains the size of a grain of linseed, and even that of a pea.

The trees mostly infested with *Coccus hesperidum* are the orange, the peach, the plum, and damson, the wild chestnut, and the vine.

After many experiments, and due consideration of the nature of these insects, I luckily happened to think of a remedy which hitherto has proved the most effectual; and I submit to the public the fruit of my investigations, with the pleasure that I can recommend it to the agriculturist, with entire confidence in his good success; thus the ravages of the Coccidæ or coccus in the orange-tree shall disappear.

Receipt. — Take one pound of quicksilver, put it into a glazed vessel, and pour upon it one gallon of boiling water, which let stand till it becomes cold; then pour off the water for use. Repeat this on the same quicksilver (for it will retain its powers) till a sufficient number of gallons are provided to fill a vessel intended for the purpose. One in the form of a trough, that will hold twenty or twenty-four gallons, is the most convenient, especially for large plantations. Then to every gallon of this mercurial water add six ounces of soft green soap, dissolved in a portion of the prepared water. Let the mixture stand till it becomes about milk-warm, which is the degree of warmth it must be kept to during the time of operation, which is performed in the following manner: —

It is necessary to brush off a few of the insects, (as in a common dressing,) especially towards the bottom of the leaves, where they will sometimes be so numerous as in appearance to lie one upon another, in which case the mixture might be prevented from penetrating to the bottom insect. Then apply the composition to the tree with a large garden syringe, in a manner that the mixture will descend and penetrate to the very bottom of the leaves in the centre of the plant, whereby the insects which are concealed there will be totally destroyed; after that, the leaves of the small-sized plants should be tied together; in such manner they will be longer impregnated with the liquid. The mixture will change the plants to a sad green color, which will give them the appearance of being spoiled, but as they become dry they will in a great measure resume their proper hue. During the operation it will be necessary to add a supply of hot mixture, in order to keep the whole to a proper degree of warmth, as also to make up the deficiency which must naturally happen. It will be proper to do this work on a fine day, and as soon in the forenoon as convenient, that the plants may have time to dry, which they will do in a few hours, and then they must undergo the same operation a second time. The most eligible season for the dressing of the plants are March, in the beginning of the spring. The following mixture I have found to be equally efficacious with the former: —

Take two ounces of soft green soap,
One ounce of common turpentine, (resin,)
One ounce of flowers of sulphur.

Put these ingredients into a proper vessel, and pour upon them one gallon of boiling water. Let the whole be well worked together with a whisk, which will bring it to strong lather, and cause the ingredients to incorporate. The mixture should be used milk-warm, and kept gently stirring during the time of using, to prevent the sulphur from subsiding. I must beg leave to observe, that I think this mixture may be of considerable use in preventing the mildew on the peach and apricot; for sulphur alone retards the progress of that most fatal disorder, and the soap and turpentine render the mixture of a slimy consistence, and leave a clammy coat or covering on the leaves, of a glossy appearance, which very likely may contribute to stop the progress of that disorder. But the fruit trees here having been constantly clear of the mildew, I have therefore not had an opportunity of making any experiments with them. All the orange-trees under these operations did not seem to have sustained the least injury; they grew more luxuriantly than ever, and with the greatest safety.

Having thus described my method of destroying these most troublesome insects, I shall now make a few necessary observations. It is allowed, that if boiling water be poured upon a sufficient quantity of quicksilver, it receives a power capable of destroying lice or insects; but there wanted something to enable it to reach to the insects in question. Soap seemed to be the most proper vehicle for that purpose, on a double account; it is a penetrating substance, and contains a quality of the former nature. Soap-suds have, perhaps, as great powers of penetration as oil, but oil being added to the second operation must make the mixture of equal force. The quantity of soap used renders the mixture of a thick, slimy consistence, and consequently leaves a kind of coat or covering upon the leaves, which very probably may prevent the insects from remaining, or even coming upon the plants in case any of them were left. For this reason it is of high importance to prefer the dry season for these operations, as I have already observed. Soap-suds effectually destroy the different species of insects that infest fruit trees growing against walls. Of these insects, the *Aphis* is the most common, as well as the most destructive. It generally attacks with great violence the peach, cherry, and plum. The *Aphides* are universally known by the appellation of *lice*.

BERNARD REYNOSO.

For the New England Farmer.

BOMMER MANURE.

Mr. Cole: Much has been said upon the Bommer Method, as it is called, of making manure, within a few years, and much money has been paid for it, which I think in most, if not in all cases, might be

appropriated more economically in saline muck and other substances, is left to decompose by nature's process, without being to the trouble entailed by *this method*. I feel no disposition to detract from the merits of any, and equally willing to accord both honor and the benefit of improvements to their rightful discoverers. But from public statements, and which I have not known controverted, I have been induced to believe that "*The Bommer Manure Method*" claims that to which it is not justly entitled in respect to originality, (if not in point of merit,) as it has been proved to be in substance the old French method of Jaufrett, to which the public have a right without purchasing of Bommer. The writer of this is one of the many (probably thousands) who have been duped with the flattering statements proclaimed of the great benefits to be derived from the "Bommer method." I have bought it and proved it, and have been reminded of Franklin's whistle. I am acquainted with many who have proved it, but do not know of one who practises it. Farmers are a hard-working class, and should be informed in such matters, in order to prevent being sponged out of their hard earnings by inexperienced speculators.

A KENEBECK FARMER.

For the New England Farmer.

EFFECTS OF CHARCOAL ON FLOWERS.

Mr. Editor: I clipped the enclosed article from the Boston Weekly Messenger some time since. I have tried the experiment but once, on my petunias both white and red, and I could see no effect like that described by Mr. Berauds. As it was a single experiment, and no particular pains taken with it, I do not consider it a full test.

Will some of the votaries of Flora try it, and communicate the result through the columns of the Farmer? No one need fear any bad effects from the charcoal, as it is decidedly beneficial to plants in pots, aside from the change of color. W. F. B.

Ashfield, *March* 26, 1850.

The Effect of Charcoal on Flowers. — The following extract cannot fail to be interesting to the botanist and the chemist, as well as to every lady who has a rose-bush in her garden, or a flower-pot in her parlor. It is from the Paris "Horticultural Review" of July last, translated by Judge Meigs, of New York, for the Farmer's Club of the American Institute. The experiments described were made by Robert Berauds, who says, —

"About a year ago, I made a bargain for a rose-bush of magnificent growth, and full of buds. I waited for them to blow, and expected roses worthy of such a noble plant, and of the praises bestowed upon it by the vender. At length, when it bloomed, all my hopes were blasted. The flowers were of a faded color, and I discovered that I had only a middling multiflora, stale enough. I therefore resolved to sacrifice it to some experiments which I had in view. My attention had been captivated with the effects of charcoal, as stated in some English publication. I then covered the earth in the pot, in which my rose-bush was, about half an inch deep with *pulverized charcoal!* Some days after, I was astonished to see the roses, which bloomed, of as fine lively rose-color as I could wish! I determined to repeat the experiment; and, therefore, when the rose-bush had done flowering, I took off all the charcoal and put fresh earth about the roots. You may conceive that I waited for the next spring impatiently, to see the result of this experiment. When it bloomed, the roses were, as at first, pale and discolored; but, by applying the charcoal as before, the roses soon resumed their rosy red color. I tried the powdered charcoal likewise in large quantities upon my petunias, and found that both the white and the violet flowers were equally sensible to its action. It always gave great vigor to the red or violet colors of the flowers, and the white petunias *became veined with red or violet tints;* the *violets* became covered with *irregular spots of a bluish* or almost *black* tint. Many persons, who admired them, thought that they were new varieties from the seed. *Yellow flowers* are (as I have proved) insensible to the influence of the charcoal."

PREPARATION OF SARSAPARILLA.

We would call the particular attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. B. O. & S. C. Wilson, on our cover. The preparation of sarsaparilla has become deservedly popular, from its great efficacy in purifying the blood, removing chronic complaints, and giving a general healthy tone to the system. We would urge upon the invalid the important consideration of using vegetable medicines, which are not only safe, but efficacious. The prominent feature of this sirup is its preparation without alcohol, which is not only highly important in a moral point of view, from its *temperate* tendency, but it is far more powerful as a restorative; for alcohol, in many cases, counteracts the valuable virtues of medicines, and frequently originates diseases more formidable than those for which the medicine is administered.

SHOW OF FINE FOWLS.

Agreeably to the notice which we gave in our last number, two pullets of the Cochin China fowls, recently imported from Dublin, by G. P. Burnham, Esq., also a cock and pullet, owned by Mr. B., recently imported from Canton, China, were exhibited in the Agricultural Hall, adjoining our office.

These fowls are remarkably large for their age, and of fine appearance, considering their hardships in a recent passage from a foreign country. Those from Dublin appear to be a superior race of the large India fowl.

Mr. Coffin, whose advertisement appears on our cover, also exhibited some fine fowls of the Shanghae, and various crosses.

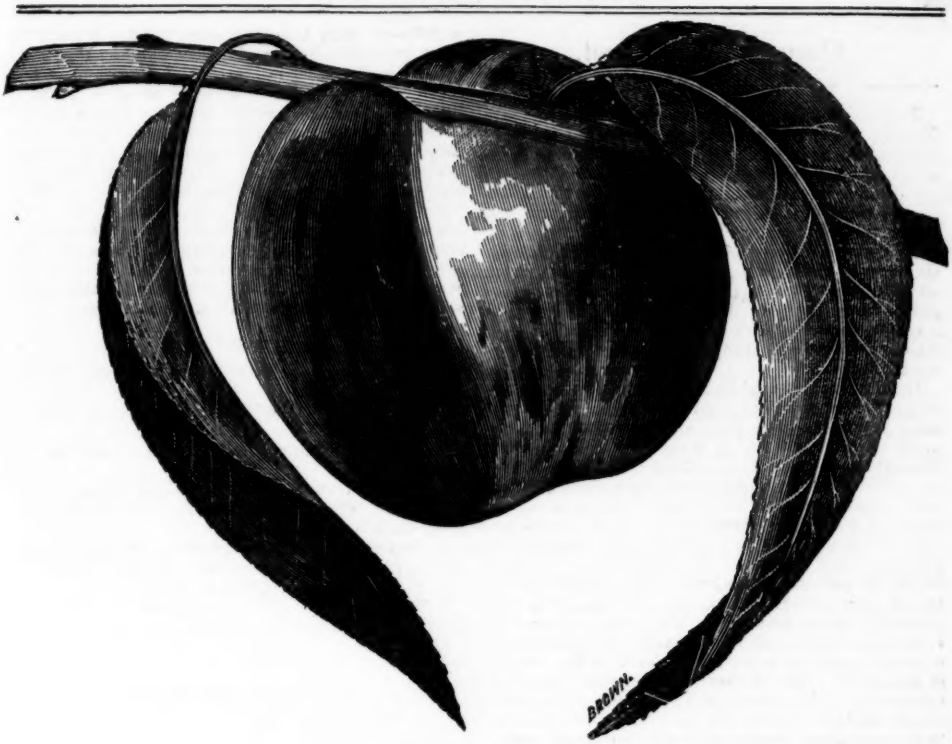
Mr. Dorr, who also advertises through the same medium, showed some fine specimens of Bolton Gray fowls.

TEXAS AS A SUGAR COUNTRY.

A Galveston letter of the 2d ult. says that the sugar production of this state is greatly on the increase, and that the quality is very superior. The grain and color are unsurpassed for brown sugar, and the flavor vastly superior. There is also sirup or cane juice, half boiled into sugar.

From a document just sent to Congress, it appears that the production of wool in this country, during the last year, was 70,000,000 pounds, valued at $25,000,000.

Ohio. — The bill making ten per cent. legal interest, in Ohio, has become a law.



TARBELL PEACH.

We cannot trace the origin of this fruit, but it has been long cultivated in Lincoln, in this state, and it is probably a native of that place. It has had several names, among which Royal Kensington has been the most common; but it is very different from that variety. The tree is vigorous, and very hardy; and the fruit is large, handsome, of excellent quality, and very salable in the market. It bears carriage well, and retains its good properties some time after gathering. The qualities of the fruit, and the habits of the tree, render it one of the very best varieties for orchard culture in the north, and preferable to foreign varieties, or those that have originated in warmer climes. An important requisite to success in peach culture, in this region, is the cultivation of those kinds that are natives of the north.

The fruit is large; roundish, a little flattened at the base, a broad suture extending nearly round it; a rich yellow ground, nearly covered with red, which is very deep and purplish full in the sun; flesh yellow, red at the stone; very juicy, rich, sweet, and of a delicious flavor. Ripens from the 10th to the 25th of September.

ROOT CULTURE.

This is a very important branch of farming, for roots are highly valuable, both for the table and for stock. In our long winters, animals become tired of dry fodder, and roots are excellent to keep up a healthy condition of the system; and with this valuable food, various kinds of coarse fodder may be consumed, and the stock kept in good condition. Root crops yield a very large amount of food to the acre. Where there is a demand for roots, this crop is very profitable for market.

The land for roots may vary from tolerably moist to tolerably dry. The beet requires rather a moist soil; the carrot will flourish well on a rather light, sandy soil. The land should be ploughed deep, and very finely pulverized, and the manure mixed intimately with the soil. The manure should be well decomposed, but if not sufficiently mellow, it is best to hasten decomposition by adding ashes or lime, and soil, with the animal manure, to prevent the escape of gases; or mix the manure with the soil as soon as the earth is dry enough, that it may become partially decomposed before sowing the seed.

There is a great advantage in ploughing the land, and applying the manure early in the season; and as soon as the weeds start, plough, harrow, or cultivate again, and so on till the season for sowing; and these operations will produce fine tilth, destroy weeds, and intimately mix the manure and soil together.

By pouring warm, or rather, hot water on hard seeds, such as carrot, beet, parsnip, &c., and soaking them two or three days in a warm place, the seed will vegetate much sooner, and get a start of the weeds, which will save great expense in hoeing; and in case of hot, dry weather, and in a dry soil, the seed will be far more sure to grow. Another advantage, in case of late sowing, the process of soaking hard seeds will expedite the growth about one week.

Domestic Department.

Female Education. — No woman is educated, says Burnap, who is not equal to the successful management of a family. Although it does not require so much talent to rule a household as it does to govern a state, still it requires talents of the same kind. As he makes the best general who has begun at the lowest post, and passed up through every grade of office; as he makes the best admiral who entered the navy in the most inferior station; because they, and they alone, are acquainted with the whole compass of a subaltern's duty,—so that woman will manage a family with the greatest ease and efficiency, who knows experimentally the duties of every member of it.

Daughters who neglect this part of education are entirely without excuse, and their mothers are still more to blame. The very apology which is often made for the neglect of it, is the greatest condemnation of those who offer it. It is said by those who are growing up in ignorance of these things, "Any one can learn how to keep house when it is necessary. Any one who loves her husband, and is devoted to his interests, will make herself accomplished in those things as soon as she is married." As well might the young man say, "O, what use is it for me to learn a profession, or make myself acquainted with the details of my business? When I am married, if I love my wife, it will then be time enough to learn a profession, or to accomplish myself in the details of business." Would there be any surer omen of total failure and discomfiture? That which a woman can learn to do under the tuition of love, can certainly be learned to much greater advantage under the tuition of a mother. If it is all so easy to learn, then certainly they are utterly inexcusable who neglect it. It is no degradation to the finest lady to know all the details of domestic affairs. It is honorable, and ought to be her pride. A woman, though she may be as beautiful as the morning, as wise as Minerva, and as accomplished as the Graces, ought to know all the details of house affairs.

Washing Clothes. — Mrs. Swisshelm gives the following direction how to wash clothes much soiled by field or out-door work, especially when they are much saturated with perspiration.

"If you would take a teacup full of spirits of turpentine, and as much spirits of wine, with a quart of water, and a gallon of soft soap, or two pounds of hard soap, put them on the fire and boil a few minutes, then put the mixture away for use, and the evening before wash day, put your white clothes into cold water, with enough of this mixture to make suds, and let them stand all night, you will find your clothes very easy to wash. A little of this stuff thrown into the boiler, makes them white and clear, and if you rinse them well, does not injure the clothes."— *Prov. Transcript.*

Youth's Department.

Pleasures of Gardening. — No one can be truly said to live, who has not a garden. None but those who have enjoyed it can appreciate the satisfaction, the luxury, of sitting down to a table spread with the fruit of one's own planting and culture. A bunch of radishes, a few heads of lettuce, taken from the garden, of a summer's morning, for breakfast, or a mess of green peas or sweet corn, is quite a different affair from the same articles brought in large quantities from market in a dying condition, to be put in the cellar for use. And a plate of strawberries or raspberries lose none of their peculiar flavor by passing directly from the border to the cream, without being jolted about in baskets until they have lost all form and comeliness. And yet how many in the smaller cities and villages of our country, possessing every facility for a good garden, either through indolence or ignorance, are deprived of this source of comfort! And how many farmers, with enough land lying waste to furnish them with most of the luxuries of life, are content to plod on in the even tenor of their way, never raising their tastes above the "pork and beans" of their fathers.

For the Boys. — Seven classes of company are to be avoided, viz.: —

1. Those who ridicule their parents, or disobey their commands.
2. Those who profane the Sabbath or scoff at religion.
3. Those who use profane or filthy language.
4. Those who are untruthful, play truant, and waste their time in idleness.
5. Those who are of a quarrelsome temper, and are apt to get into difficulty with others.
6. Those who are addicted to lying.
7. Those who are of a cruel disposition, and take pleasure in torturing or maiming animals.

Health Department

Down upon Calomel. — The Scalpel, a New York medical publication, edited by Dr. Dixon, deals very plainly with many subjects connected with medical practice. The following quotations from a late number will serve to show the views of the editor upon calomel: —

"In dyspepsia, or indigestion, when nothing goes right, and nobody knows why, it is a perfectly philosophical deduction, that something is wrong. It may be the blood, it may be the solids, it may be the spleen, it may be the brain. The whole case appears to be a doubtful one — 'a may be.' Does it not strike every medical logician, that the *treatment* of a disease should be in accordance with its *condition?* What better mode of treatment could be pursued than the 'may be' one? Give calomel! 'May be' the patient will get better notwithstanding the calomel, and you, 'may be,' will get the credit. The worst which 'may be' is, that the calomel 'may be' fatal to him; but if it be, you have only carried out the theory of a medical 'may be,' to its *therapeutic conclusion.*

* * * * * *

"Some of the alterative effects of calomel are very apparent. We have known stout, healthy persons altered to lean, feeble ones. Some, whose stomachs were capable of taking and digesting any thing, were rendered incapable of taking or digesting at all; others, who were always regular in their bowels, were so altered, that they found the necessity to regulate them the future business of their life. Some have a moderate-sized liver altered to a large one; others are so altered as to lose a large portion of their liver, already diminished. Some find out that they have kidneys, who never knew it before, and many can define the exact boundary of their stomachs, by the uneasiness which they feel, who formerly did not know they had a stomach.

"There is, however, one valuable property in calomel above all other medicines. It is this: If there

is nothing the matter with the person who takes it, there very soon will be; and although, before its administration, it might be impossible to know or say what was the matter, if any thing, it will be very easy to do both, after it has been given. Decayed teeth, bad breath, foul stomach, irregular bowels, pains in the bones, weakness and weariness, are a small portion in the catalogue of ailments, which are most distinctly traceable to calomel. Dyspepsia, dropsy, and piles or fistula, may be very easily procured, by one who will undergo a course of calomel.

"If a medical man cannot find enough of disease to employ him, let him give calomel to that which he does find, and he will most assuredly find more. It may be proper, in some cases, to give sarsaparilla as well; but that depends upon whether the doctor sells it. If he does, let him give it by all means."

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Singular Uses of Gutta Percha. — Nothing will better illustrate the infinite variety of uses to which this substance may be applied, than its complete adaptation to every work connected with the creation of a book. From it a paper very difficult to rend, and especially adapted to any documents exposed to wear and tear, as bills of exchange, share certificates, &c., and also for wrappers and envelopes of all sorts, may be made. It may be mixed with colors in printing, and thus a degree of permanency be given to impressions which they would not otherwise possess. A strong and perfectly water-proof fabric may be formed, by simply laying a number of gutta percha threads, side by side, upon a foundation of cotton, linen, or other textile material, and passing the substance between two heated rollers, which has the effect to cement the threads firmly to the cloth, and to one another; and finally, the threads of the gutta percha may be combined in the construction of fine cords or strings. The use of this material in binding books is important, as giving them additional strength. Its durability renders the treasures of a library less liable to the destructive attacks of insects, than they are where paste, glue, and leather are employed. The London Company for the manufacture of it, haye taken out a patent, comprehending among its objects the binding and covering of books, pamphlets, portfolios, writing cases, and similar articles.

A solution of it used for paste, size, gum or glaive, wherever the same are ordinarily employed in any of the processes of binding or covering; as for example, in pasting in or down any of the end papers, or joints in attaching leather or vellum to the boards and backs, or in sizing for marbling and gilding. Another solution of the same description is used as a vehicle for coloring and marbling the covers. In the sheet state it is used as a substitute for vellum, leather, and cloth.

The advantages attending the use of this article are, first, a saving of time and expense in most cases, as it supersedes the necessity of sewing or stitching, or of embossing or figuring each article separately; and secondly, a great increase of durability, it being affected by neither cold nor water, nor by damp, nor by any of the ordinary variations of atmospheric temperature, nor by oil or grease, nor subject to the ravages of insects.

We may rest easy as to the evil results of the loss of any common material. Gutta percha stands ready to take its place, if it is either hard or soft, fibrous or pulpy, hardware, ropes, wood-work, overshoes, plates, or any thing else.

Coal Tar. — Recent experiments have demonstrated the fact that coal tar may be used successfully as a substitute for paint. A correspondent of the Agriculturist says, —

"I think it would be well to call the attention of farmers to the use of coal tar as paint. The tar produced in the coal gas works, is extensively used in England for painting fences, out-buildings, &c., and is being rapidly introduced into this country also. It never alters by exposure to the weather, and one or two good coats will last many years. It is the cheapest and best black paint that can be used. Out-buildings are painted with it; our apparatus, also, and even the iron pipe we place in the ground is coated with it. I think if its advantages were fully known, it would be generally used throughout the United States. The government soak the bricks used in building the fort at Throg's Neck, in this tar, which renders them impervious to water, and posts painted with it are protected from rot when in the ground, as effectually as though they had been charred."

This tar is very cheap, can be had in all our cities, and is undoubtedly one of the best articles that can be had for protecting iron from rust, or wood from decay.

ON SUCKERS OF FRUIT TREES.

The season has arrived for setting out fruit trees. We regret to see a practice still persevered in, that always results in loss and disappointment. In the year 1845, we wrote the substance of the following article for the *Western Reserve Magazine of Agriculture and Horticulture*, and perhaps we cannot occupy our columns at this time better than by republishing it. During the last week we had occasion to dig up the last of the mazard stocks, alluded to as having been purchased in the county of Columbiana. The large roots remained in the condition they were when transplanted many years since, except they were more diseased. Very few small fibres had formed, and wherever any appeared, they were in connection with a cluster of suckers.

The employment of suckers as stocks for propagating fruit trees, should be considered as a species of malepractice among nurserymen. It is followed by so many evils, that it is discountenanced at this day by every judicious horticulturist, and we are happy to say that we believe it is discontinued by most, or all the practical nurserymen in this vicinity; though it is still a popular and common practice with the public generally.

The cherry, plum, pear, and apple tree, in a diseased condition, will often throw up numerous thrifty sprouts, that will offer to an unexperienced cultivator, inviting temptation to multiply his stock at a rapid rate, with little labor. If he be deceived by these appearances, and propagate his valuable kinds upon these diseased growths, his efforts will ultimately result in disappointment.

It is not denied that in a few instances trees thus propagated may have been tolerably healthy, fruitful, and long-lived; but we hesitate not to affirm, that in *nine* cases out of *ten* the experiment will prove a total failure. All the failures and disappointments incident to the cultivation of fruits, do not of course originate in this practice; but a long course of observation has confirmed us in the conclusion, that several forms of disease in the tree and in their fruits, attributed to other causes, have their origin in this practice.

The late black damison, the English horse plum, and the Kentish and Morello cherries have been propagated in this manner since the first settlement of Europeans in this country, and they have now all

become so much diseased as to be hardly worthy of cultivation.

The practice of grafting and budding pears upon this quality of stocks, has extended a diseased action, a kind of canker among our pear orchards, that has in some instances been mistaken for *blight*, a disease that has its origin in the depredations of a minute coleopterous insect, which has been satisfactorily described in all its stages of transformation, by Dr. Harris, and other Massachusetts entomologists. Vegetables as well as animals, are subject to morbid or diseased actions, which may be either functional or organic. Such diseased actions may be propagated from the parent tree to its sprouts. Sprouts are, indeed, almost sure to inherit all the defects of the original tree. The very circumstance that a tree is disposed to throw up suckers, is an evidence that its vitality has been impaired in some manner, either by mechanical injury, or the occurrence of a morbid action in its system.

Our attention was attracted to this subject more than thirty years since, by witnessing the different results of the labors of two old and experienced nurserymen in the state of Connecticut. Both of these men had gained a livelihood for many years, by following the nursery business. Each could point to many of the orchards in his respective vicinity, as the products of his labor. The difference in health, vigor, and fertility of the orchards originated by the one, compared with those of the other, was so apparent as to attract the attention of the most careless observer. One propagated exclusively upon suckers, the other upon young and healthy seedlings. Since that day, we have seen two extensive cherry orchards, and several pear orchards, propagated on sprouts, prematurely and suddenly die without any apparent cause. Instances of individual trees of this character thus dying have been so common as to escape attention. On the other hand, we were acquainted with an English cherry orchard budded upon healthy mazard seedling stocks, and transplanted from Prince's Nursery not many years subsequent to the revolutionary war, still healthy and vigorous as late as the year 1820; and we believe many of the trees remain so at the present day.

In the year 1840, we purchased a number of mazard stocks at a nursery in Columbiana county, supposing them to be seedling; subsequent information led us to suspect that we had been imposed upon. Last season our suspicions that they were worthless suckers, were confirmed by the circumstance that they were filling our grounds in all directions with sprouts, and several of the trees suddenly dying; others are taking the same course the present season. The remainder are destined to be dug up the ensuing autumn, and replaced by healthy and seedling stocks, though we shall lose by it the growth of several years.

Trees raised from suckers usually manifest some of the following tendencies, viz.: —

1st. *To send up annually from their roots a profusion of suckers.*

This tendency, of itself, diverts the sap from its legitimate channels, the body and limbs, and causes them to sicken from inanition, which also predisposes to attacks of other diseases, insects, and premature decay.

2d. *To the formation of excessive numbers of fruit buds.*

As this is a morbid action, the vigor of the tree is usually exhausted in the effort at forming the blow-buds, and no fruit in the end will be produced, or, if any, it will be of an inferior quality, insipid, knotty, and wormy.

3d. *To a stinted or dwarfish growth.*

The main stock may grow rapidly for a few years, but sooner or later, some side shoot will spring up, and divert the nutriment to itself, and leaves its predecessor to starve and decay, just as in these changing political times, one office-holder will flourish with an ephemeral growth from official patronage, till some more fortunate rival starts up to supplant him.

4th. *To decay, or sudden death, without any apparent cause.*

A rapid and strong growth for a few years may hold out the promise of a successful result, never to be realized. Portions of the bark and wood will soon decay, or be attacked with insects; the whole of the tree perhaps stops its growth, and assumes a sickly appearance, or dies suddenly in a few days. Some or all of these unfavorable changes will occur at an early age.

In conclusion, we would observe, that no honest nurseryman will impose a sucker on his customers, and no considerate horticulturist will encumber his grounds with such a nuisance. — *O. Family Visitor.*

TIME FOR TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS.

The following observations on this subject we copy from the *Prairie Farmer;* and after various experiments which we have witnessed upon hundreds of transplanted evergreens, we have arrived, on nearly every point, at the same conclusion. It is true, the object of the writer has not been to give every essential requisite to success, such as keeping the roots wet from the very moment they are taken up, till they are plunged in mud, and replanted; or still better, cutting a large cake of earth with the spade, to be removed with the roots; but as far as the remarks go, they are undoubtedly founded on correct practice. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

"As to the best time for transplanting evergreens, there has been much said first and last; nor do we think the public mind clear on the subject yet. We do not pretend to understand as well which is, as which is not the best time. A class of writers have uniformly directed to move them in early summer, when they were in full growth, affirming that then the tree will best overcome the debility caused by a removal. We have learned this much, that such a time is probably the worst that could be selected. It is certainly very far from being the best. Evergreens removed at that season, will exhibit the wilting of the tender shoots, even on a wet, cloudy day; nor will a ball of earth removed with the roots, serve to mitigate the difficulty. Such trees can only be saved by the most unremitting care and labor.

"We are of opinion at this time, that evergreens are no exception to the rules which regulate the removal of deciduous trees; and that the best time to move them, will be found to be that in which other trees are moved. Transplanting may, perhaps, be continued later than with others, because they do not begin their growth quite as early. But as soon as the new shoots begin to appear, it is time to stop work among them.

"Another standing error regarding evergreens is, that they must not be pruned on removal. All the reason we have ever heard given, is, they exude gum. If any body should ask, 'What if they do exude gum?' we should only be able to give the answer made by the speaker of the legislature of Hull. The said speaker had found his fellow-legislators disposed to be unruly. His only mode of quelling the disturbers was to threaten 'to name them.' This was, for many a year, sufficiently potent. Finally, a member ventured to ask the speaker what would be the effect if he did 'name one.' 'Heaven only knows,' said his dignity, 'I don't.'

"We do not suppose evergreens any exception to other trees, in regard to the practice to be followed

with them, either as to the time of removal, or as to the fact of trimming. The mode of cutting should be somewhat different from that practised with deciduous trees. They do not push out shoots so easily from the trunk; and it would not be safe to cut them as close. The best mode of trimming would be that of shortening the branches; cutting off half or two thirds their length, as should be preferred. This is also the best mode of trimming small deciduous trees; but in removing larger ones, such as are taken from the forest for shade, it is necessary to practise cutting much more severely; unless they are taken from open ground, and dug up with extra care, so as to save as many roots as possible. If carelessly dug, such trees should be shortened from the top one third or more, and all the side limbs entirely removed, leaving them like bean poles.

"This mode of treatment would probably be improper for evergreens, though we have never made any experiments with a view of ascertaining how much cutting they would bear.

"In removing evergreens, or any other forest tree, it should be remembered that those which grow in open grounds, or near them, exposed to sun and air, will be supplied with many more small roots than those grown in the shade of other trees."

NATURE OF DIFFERENT SOILS.

Clay is the stiffest of all kinds of soils, and generally contains an unctuous quality. Some kinds of clay are richer than others, and will always produce much larger crops by cultivation than other kinds. Some are soft and slippery; but all of them retain water poured on their surfaces, where it stagnates and chills the plants, without sinking into the soil. The closeness and heaviness of clay prevent the roots and fibres of plants from spreading in search of nourishment. All kinds of clay are naturally unfavorable to vegetation, and are not worth any thing, till their texture is so loosened and opened by a mixture of other substances, as to admit the influence of the sun and air. Among substances recommended to be mixed with it, sand is, of all others, to be preferred. The sea sand is the best, where it can be obtained, for this most effectually breaks the cohesion. Also, it is not wholly formed of small stones, but contains a good deal of calcareous matter. The finer the sand is, the more easily it penetrates clay.

The next best sand is that washed down by rains from hills. Those which are dry and light, are not so good as the fine, pulverized sand, more of the nature of fine loam.

Ashes, and all kinds of vegetable and animal substances, are good for clay; but they are found to be far more beneficial when well mixed with sand, for this is almost the only substance that will separate the hard, caked clay, so as to admit the rays of the sun.

Low meadow land has somewhat the nature of clay. Although it may be very rich, formed perhaps entirely of decayed vegetable substances, yet it will produce but a very little of any thing, until it is changed from that hard, solid nature, so as to be acted upon by foreign influences. If the land is moist, let it be well ditched. If the ditches should be in the way, they can be filled up with small stones, within a foot or two of the surface, and then covered over with gravel. In this manner the meadow can be made nearly as dry as upland; the treatment of it, then, should be nearly the same as that given for clayey soils. Both ought to be well ploughed, and especially in the fall, in order that the frost may have a greater influence in pulverizing the soil during the winter.

There is another kind of light, poor land, which seldom produces any thing till well manured. It needs something that will give substance to the soil. Decayed vegetables are probably the best to effect this. In the spring, sow the field with buckwheat, or oats, after the rate of three or four bushels to the acre; when they are in bloom, roll them down, and then plough them in. They will soon ferment and rot in the ground. Often another crop can be sown and ploughed in the same year. In this manner the most sterile field can be made fruitful at a very little expense.

There is another kind of land, which is light and rich, being most easy to cultivate to advantage, and is the most productive. Concerning the nature of this, little need be said. Put on a sufficient quantity of any kind of manure, and if the season be favorable, there will be a rich harvest.

There is another kind of land, which is coarse and rough; often it is covered with bushes, or old stumps, which should all be taken out by the roots. It should be ploughed and cross-ploughed in the fall, and the same in the spring. The more it is pulverized, so much more productive it will be. The harrow and the roller may be very useful in tearing to pieces and beating down the sods. Ashes or lime are beneficial for such land; let them be mixed with some vegetable manure, and applied liberally, and the future crops of grain and grass will afford a rich reward for the labor and expense.

The nature of soils, of course, in various parts of the country, is very different, and the management for such should be different. Experiments on soils are the only sure means of ascertaining their true nature. Let every farmer be observant in experimental farming, and with the aid of philosophical thinkers, their profession will soon rise to the honorable position which its true dignity merits.

M. H. F.

Hanover, N. H., 1850.

—*Dollar Newspaper.*

APPLICATION OF BONES AS A MANURE.

Dr. Lee: As I have been a constant reader of various agricultural journals, for seven or eight years, my attention has been attracted by frequent notices of the great utility of bones, in different conditions, as fertilizers; and being now in a situation to procure them, I wish to inquire of you, what is the most economical and effective manner of applying them. It seems that the method of reducing them now generally used, is by means of sulphuric acid; and a Prof. Way, of England, I believe, recommends the addition of equal weights of acid and common salt. On this I should like to have your opinion, as well as on the following points, viz.: —

1. For corn, on a clay loam, would leached ashes, charcoal *waste*, or both, be best to dry the bones with, after solution? 2. What is the best mode of application for corn or root crops, — to drop it with the seed, or to cover the seed, and apply immediately over it, or wait until the corn, carrots, &c., appear above ground? 3. Will the mixture be injured by lying in a heap a month or more? And lastly, how much is required per acre for corn?

An answer to the above questions, in season for the coming spring, will be very thankfully received.

My father purchased the farm that we occupy, in the spring of 1848. It consists mostly of a clay loam, on a stiff clay subsoil, and is underlaid by a species of limestone. Some boulders of the same kind, also lie on the surface. The farm has been "skinned," pretty thoroughly; but we, being "book farmers," expect to increase its fertility somewhat before long, by means of deep ploughing, turning under clover

and buckwheat, by raising spring crops and manuring them well, to be followed by wheat; and, lastly, by keeping the ground always covered, as far as possible; the good effects of which mode of culture are apparent already. We are also trying to get up a "Farmers' Club," and to obtain some subscribers to your paper, which we get through your agent, Mr. Reed, at Lockport.

But as your time is precious, I will not tax you further at present. J. BREADING TREVOR.

Lockport, *Feb.*, 1850.

"Leached ashes and coal waste" will be useful on clay loam, for corn or any other crop. These fertilizers being mild in character, they should be applied to corn land in quantities sufficient to spread over the whole ground, and be incorporated with the soil by the plough, harrow, and hoe. This should be done, i. e., the ashes should be applied, before planting. Unleached ashes are most economically used by adding one bushel of salt, one half do. plaster, with two of ashes, and adding the mixture to the soil as a top-dressing for each hill, after the first hoeing or weeding; taking care not to have the salt and ashes come in contact with the young plants. One or two ounces, or such a matter, spread over the roots of each hill, will be of essential service to the crop.

Leached ashes and rotting manure, mixed in a compost heap, improve each other,—the carbonic acid eliminated from the dung, or decaying organic matter, will render the potash, soda, and lime salts (silicates) in the ashes soluble, while the alkalies named will aid in forming saltpetre. (See account of artificial nitre beds, in Johnston's Chemistry.)

The only objection to the use of sulphuric acid for dissolving bones is the expense of the article. To avoid this, we have preferred to break up bones with an old axe, pretty fine, and boil them to a powder in strong lye. To this compound we add a little salt and gypsum. It may then be mixed with a little fine dry loam, and distributed with a drilling machine over seeds of corn, carrots, beets, or other plants. The compound is too caustic to be placed in contact with tender germs. It is a powerful fertilizer. As to quantity per acre, every man's judgment, means, quantity of land, &c., must decide that question.—*Genesee Farmer.*

BENEFITS OF DEEP PLOUGHING.

Messrs. Editors: Some fifteen years since, being in the state of New York, I saw for the first time an agricultural paper — the *Genesee Farmer*. In that was an article relative to deep ploughing, which I perused carefully, and by it was induced to try an experiment. I had previously farmed it as others did, thinking that there was no way to increase the product but to increase the number of acres.

I had a field containing four acres and one hundred rods of ground, which had been cleared nine years, and had had a grain crop on it every year — wheat, corn, and oats — the three last were oats. The field was considered nearly worn out, and would not have produced more than fifteen bushels of wheat per acre. There were many large stumps and four green trees on the field. The soil was clay loam. I had only a single team — a powerful span of horses — and a single plough, (Wood's.) I raised the end of the beam three inches, and commenced ploughing in June, when the ground was wet, turning up about five inches that had never been stirred before, ploughing about three fourths of an acre per day. The ground was dug up with a spade around the stumps, harrowed and ploughed shallow twice afterwards, and sown the fifth day of October, with two bushels of velvet bearded wheat per acre. In the spring were sown one hundred and fifty pounds of plaster where the wheat looked the poorest. The result was, although much was wasted in gathering,— for it shelled badly,— I had by weight one hundred and ninety-six and one-half bushels, besides one large load not threshed at the time, which would have increased the product to at least two hundred and twelve bushels. Since that time I have ploughed deep, and the result has been invariably the same, or at least doubling the crop. Deep ploughing on a soil like mine will prevent the crop from suffering from wet or dry weather, and is a preventive of rust, or at least has been with me, and it will not turn to weeds, as much wheat does in Michigan. The editor of the Michigan Farmer thinks "it is almost a miracle," if a farmer here gets a good crop of wheat; yet none fail who cultivate their land properly. This we can prove by many farmers in this county.

The general system has been, ever since the first settlement of this country, to plough shallow, and grow wheat after wheat, without manure, or even seeding to grass, until all the food for the wheat plant is exhausted; and then we are told that the seasons are such we cannot grow wheat, and must turn our attention to raising sheep; but will sheep thrive if we serve them as we serve our wheat? Will they live without proper food? Or will they live in the water without turning to musk-rats?

Yours, &c., LINUS CONE.

Troy, Oakland Co., Michigan, *Feb.*, 1850.

— *Genesee Farmer.*

BUILDING AND BUILDING MATERIALS.

The materials used for the construction of houses are wood, brick, burnt and unburnt, iron, and stone. In the first place, I shall consider wood, that being in almost universal use throughout the country. The advantages claimed for it by its strong advocates are, its comparative cheapness, beauty, facility of obtaining it, and the readiness with which it can be repaired. The disadvantages are, liability to decay, also to fire, subject to heat in summer, and cold in winter, its continued expense for a series of years, for repairing, painting, &c.

Here the questions naturally arise — Can the advantages claimed be sustained? and do they more than counterbalance the disadvantages?

Let us weigh the matter and then decide. First, its *cheapness*, to my mind, is just as "clear as mud;" for it is my candid opinion that most farmers (those, I mean, who have their farms and buildings in decent condition) spend as much in repairing these wooden structures, for a term of years, as would pay the interest on good stone ones. When a man sells his farm with wooden buildings upon it, such as are generally found in New England, it brings no higher price per acre than if destitute of buildings altogether. Not so with those with stone buildings, which enhance the value at once, although they may not have cost more, in the aggregate, than the wooden ones. This shows conclusively that the farmers themselves have no confidence in their cheapness, nor in their excellence.

But, while I thus dwell at length on the merits of wood, I must not forget it has also corresponding demerits, as its liability to take fire, for instance. This is a very serious objection in the country, as it rarely happens that wooden buildings there once on fire are ever extinguished, owing to the scarcity of fire engines and the combustibility of the material; and, if they escape fire, the liability to decay adds a bill of expense.

Another material, unburnt bricks, has lately been made use of at the west; and a few buildings have been erected in New York. Still, the number is so

small as not to warrant a decided opinion, either for or against, if I may credit those who have built them, who consider them an excellent substitute for wood.

Bricks, for the construction of country houses, are rarely used, except in districts where they are manufactured. Furthermore, they have but few advantages over other materials. They are also objectionable on account of their readiness to absorb and retain moisture; and, without a coat of paint of some subdued shade outside, are, to my taste, decidedly bad, and quite out of place among the green fields of the country.

Let us next pass to iron as a material for building, which, no doubt, is first rate; but its expense will confine it for the present to the massive warehouses of our commercial cities, where great strength and solidity are required. But those who live to number this century with the past, may live to see iron farmhouses and iron barns — particularly if this branch of American industry is fostered as it should be.

Last, but not least, in our list comes stone. This is, to my mind, decidedly and emphatically *the* material for us at the north. Its solidity, durability, strength, beauty, imperviousness to moisture, its coolness in summer and warmth in winter, the facility with which it can be obtained, render it, take it all in all, the best; and, when once built, there it stands, to be transmitted to "the children, and the children's children, unto the third and fourth generations." The lamented Colman said, "We build too much for the present;" and, when agricultural commissioner for the state of Massachusetts, he gave a very favorable opinion in regard to stone over every other material for building purposes. A great many farmers labor under the mistake that they have no stone fit to build a house, and still have miles of stone wall on their farms. Think you these men would buy stone to lay even a cellar wall? Certainly not. Then the objection is answered, for stone fit to lay a cellar wall is fit for the outside walls of the house. Indeed, almost every farm in this rock-bound region has suitable stone, enough and to spare.

Connected with this subject is the matter of *roofing*. Shingles are in most general use here, but they are expensive, and not durable; though there is a great difference in them. Those that are split, instead of sawed, are preferable. Slate is used in our cities, also tin and zinc; but all these are too expensive for the country. *Mastic* has been tried, but with what success I know not. So also has paper, and an article called asphaltum, been used in England; and a sample has been imported, but by whom I cannot learn. Tiles are used a great deal in England, and are there considered cheap and good; and I see no reason why they might not be used, to some extent, in this country. Now, as Mr. Delafield has imported a tile machine, let some one try the experiment, and give us the results through the columns of the Agriculturist. Perhaps, after all, stone houses, with tile roofs, after the fashion of the mother country, (only Americanize them a little,) will be the thing needful.

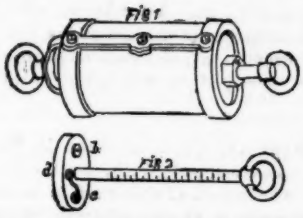
One great reason why modern covered roofs do not last as well as old ones, is the bad nails we use now-a-days. This cut nail business was set out in its true light by Lieutenant-Governor Reed, at the legislative agricultural meetings at Boston, in 1848, He said, "These nails are a little better than cast iron; that is, of cast iron run only once through the rollers. The nails are also small, five hundred to the pound. The proper size is only four hundred. These poor nails are sold at four and a half cents per pound; but the manufacturers would make good nails of refined iron, if ordered, at five and a half cents per pound. Manufacturers would make good nails, but the public have called for *cheap* nails, and they have got them, poor or worthless." Gov. Reed then showed the two kinds of nails spoken of above, and they were examined with a great deal of interest.

Inside finish, also, claims a passing remark. Let us strive to do away with so much paint. Rather finish with some of our beautiful native woods, and a much handsomer finish will be obtained than by painting.

J. B. D.

Boston, *Jan.* 1850.

— *Am. Agriculturist.*



EMERY'S CYLINDRICAL DYNAMOMETER.

Mr. H. L. Emery, of Albany, N. Y., the author of this invention, gives the following account of its peculiar advantages:—

"This instrument is intended to be used as a comparative test of the power required to overcome the resistance of bodies under draft and more particularly that of ploughs. The common spring instrument has many faults, among which the most important are its *vibration*, and its want of *self-determination* in pounds of the medium force constantly required to perform the work. This invention is not only free from these faults, but it also indicates the absolute relative quantity of force expended in performing a given quantity of work. It consists of a strong iron cylinder with piston ground steam-tight, the piston rod passing through a stuffing box, and terminating with a ring. The cylinder being filled with the proper fluid, and a small hole made through the piston, by applying the force to the ring, the piston is drawn out in a given time and by a given force. The State Agricultural Society, American Institute, and the Worcester Mechanics Association, each awarded the inventor a silver medal and the highest recommendation for its correctness and utility."

AMERICAN TEA.

The New York Journal of Commerce publishes a letter from Dr. Junius Smith, dated Golden Grove, Greenville, S. C., January 14, 1850, in which that gentleman thus describes the progress he has made in his experiment of tea culture:—

"You will be pleased to hear that the tea-plant, in strength and vigor, is in bud and blossom still, and promises to continue until greeted by the vernal breezes, and cheered by solar heat. I have one remarkable plant, a branch of which is so loaded with seed, now about the size of a pea, that it bends under its weight, and almost touches the ground. The tea-plant is a curious shrub, and to watch its development is an amusement deeply interesting. In answer to your inquiries respecting the probable time of my being able to dispose of tea-plants and seed, I beg to inform you that it is my intention to accommodate the public, so far as I can, with both plants and tea-nuts, the ensuing spring, most likely in March, and thus open the way to an extensive cultivation in the United States."

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

THE HORTICULTURIST for April is received, containing its usual interesting variety. Luther Tucker, Esq., Albany, publisher; J. Breck & Co., Boston, agents.

THE ILLUSTRATED SELF-INSTRUCTOR IN PHRENOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY, with one hundred engravings, and a Phrenological Chart of Character; by O. S. & L. N. Fowler. New York, Fowlers and Wells. 138 pp., mailable form. Price 25 cts. — Besides the valuable information in the science of phrenology, this work contains a great deal of interesting and instructive matter, of practical utility in the science of life.

PHRENOLOGY AND THE SCRIPTURES, by Rev. John Pierpont. Fowlers and Wells, publishers. Price 12½ cts. — The object of this work is to show, not only that the science of phrenology and the doctrine of Christ are in accordance with each other, but that they mutually explain, help, and prove each other. The name of the venerable and distinguished author of this work is a guaranty of his having accomplished it with ability and fidelity.

FARMER AND MECHANIC. — This work, by W. H. Star and J. Arburtis, New York, is among the most valuable of our exchanges. It is illustrated with numerous engravings, and every number brings something new and useful, in a plain and practical style. It ranks high as a work of public utility. In neat quarto form, weekly, at $2 00 per annum.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Of S. P. Fowler, Esq., Danvers New Mills, a bottle of currant wine, made from Ogden's Black Grape currants. It is a powerful astringent, mingled with a slight acid. It is a valuable remedial agent for sore throat and other affections.

We have received from Dr. Lee, superintendent of the agricultural department of the Patent Office, a variety of seeds, on which we shall make experiments.

POTATO DISEASE NOT CAUSED BY INSECTS.

Mr. Curtis, a distinguished English entomologist, has just published a volume in reference to insects which attack the potato. Speaking of the malady which has prevailed so extensively in potatoes for several years, he remarks — "Amongst the numerous causes which have been assigned for the appearance of this alarming and severe visitation, insects have been frequently taxed as the destructive agents; but I am convinced the calamity is not to be attributed to their presence." He admits that there are many species of insects which prey upon the potato in its various stages; but he thinks there is no evidence that their attacks are in any way connected with what is called the potato disease. — *Albany Cultivator.*

"HOUSE AND HOME."

What's a House? You may buy it, or build it, or rent;
It may be a mansion, a cottage, a tent;
Its furniture costly, or humble and mean;
High walls may surround it, or meadows of green.

Tall servants in livery stand in the hall,
Or but one little maiden may wait on you all;
The tables may groan with rich viands and rare,
Or potatoes and bread be its costliest fare.

The inmates may glitter in purple and gold,
Or the raiment be homely, and tattered, and old;
'Tis a house, and no more, which vile money may buy;
It may ring with a laugh, or but echo a sigh.

But a Home must be warmed with the embers of love,
Which none from its hearthstone may ever remove,
And be lightened at eve with a heart-kindled smile,
Which a breast, though in sorrow, of woe may beguile.

A home must be "Home," for no words can express it;
Unless you have known it, you never can guess it;
'Tis in vain to describe what it means to a heart
Which can live out its life on the bubbles of art.

It may be a palace, it may be a cot;
It matters not which, and it matters not what;
'Tis a dwelling perfumed with the incense of love,
From which to its owner 'tis death to remove.

THE OLIO.

MENTAL INFIRMITY. — We ought, in humanity, no more to despise a man for the misfortunes of the mind than those of the body, when they are such as he cannot help. Were this thoroughly considered, we should no more laugh at one for having his brains cracked than for having his head broken. — *Swift.*

The hypocrite is never so far from being a good Christian, as when he looks like one. — *Sir R. L'Estrange.*

The diseases of the body are better discovered when they increase; but the diseases of the soul grow more obscure, and the most sick are the least sensible. — *Seneca.*

Freedom may use her tongue, because speech is both her weapon and her spoils; but despotism is lost from the moment it attempts to vindicate its ways.

A cheerful manner commonly denotes a gentle nature; whereas a sour countenance is a manifest sign of a froward disposition.

The zeal which begins with hypocrisy must conclude in treachery; at first it deceives, at last it betrays.

TERMS. — THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume, if left at this office. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

THE POSTAGE

On this paper is only 1 cent, or 26 cents a year, within the state, or within 100 miles out of the state; and 1½ cents, or 39 cents a year, beyond those distances.

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